M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84

CALIFORNIA
LIBRARY
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 9 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, JUNE, 1927 NUMBER 6

JUNE MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 9th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd Floor, Room 19.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Stanley C. Kirk, who will take for his subject "The Homer Pigeon—Its History and Training". Exhibits of noted flyers will be used in demonstration.

* * *

JUNE FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, June 12th, to Tennessee Cove and the high bluffs overlooking the ocean, for a half mile northerly therefrom. We shall again hope for the colony of Baird cormorants which was found by the Association several years ago when making this trip.

Take 8:15 a. m. Sausalito Ferry and purchase roundtrip tickets to Manzanita, about 50c. Bring lunch and canteens, as there is no drinking water at luncheon place.

* * *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAY MEETING: The one hundred twenty-second regular meeting of the Association was held on May 12th, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mrs. Carl Smith, Secretary. Thirty-nine members and guests were present.

In the absence of Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, the scheduled speaker for the evening, who had been called out of town, Mr. L. M. Loomis gave a very interesting paper on "How Birds Migrate." The subject of migration has always held the attention of people, even the most primitive noticed the phenomenon, and their limited observations gave rise to many myths. Mr. Loomis stressed the point that an observer may be ever so accurate but if he bases his conclusions on arrested migration instead of following the whole course his deductions may be entirely incorrect. To exemplify this point Mr. Loomis related his experiences at Pt. Pinus, Monterey Bay. In the Bay young of a species would be seen without adults present as if these young birds were making their own way either north or south as the season might be, without the guidance of mature birds. Out in the ocean, however, flocks of adults were traveling and the young observed had simply dropped out of the ranks and could again fall in line with other flocks of their kind that might come along. There is still much to be learned on this subject.

According to the constitution of the Association a member who distinguishes him- or herself in some ornithological field is eligible for honorary membership. Mr. George Wright was made an honorary member on account of his work in McKinley National Park, where he accompanied Mr. Joseph Dixon in the spring and summer of 1926 and was the first white man to behold the eggs of the surf bird.

* * *

Audubon's birthday, May 4th, was brought to the attention of radio listeners through Station KTAB, whence two brief accounts of his life were broadcast by Mr. C. B. Lastreto, on the invitation of those representing that station.

* * *

A very interesting book, "Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds", by Arthur Cleveland Bent, has recently been published and can be procured by sending $1.25 to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. It is Bulletin No. 135.

* * *

BLACK CROWNED NIGHT HERONS

For many years black crowned night herons have nested in old Monterey cypress trees on the Cohen Estate, Alameda. They have been a source of pleasure and interest to bird lovers who have made special trips to see them. Recently the estate has been subdivided into building lots and some of the trees cut down. The birds had to find new homes. They have located in cypress trees in Lincoln Park, east end of Alameda, not far from the old headquarters. Unfortunately, they chose the trees overhanging the bleachers, and were condemned as a nuisance because, on account of their presence, this most desirable part of the bleacher cannot be used. The first thought was to shoot the birds but the park superintendent reconsidered and wrote the California Fish and Game Commission. The reply stated that these birds were protected by both Federal and State laws and could not be shot. Of course, this does not help the bleachers. The writer then interested the playground supervisor to make these birds an asset to the park by having the play directors during the story hour tell the children interesting things about the birds and also try to have them study their habits. Here was an excellent opportunity to have the children read nature's story for themselves. Alas! on May 25th dead birds were seen hanging from some of the limbs. How many had been killed could not be ascertained.

For several years three of the herons roosted in some tall acacias on Grand Street. The winter storms broke so many of these street trees that those not uprooted had to be cut down as a matter of safety. Thus the birds lost these homesites. It is sincerely hoped that the birds will win out.

Junea W. (Mrs. G. Earle) Kelly.

* * *

SHORE BIRDS

The migration season for these birds as far as the Alameda shore is concerned has passed. On May 16th five Hudsonian curlew were the only birds found. Each spring and fall the writer sends in a report to the Bureau of

Biological Survey on the movement of these birds. The following is a copy of the report for this spring:

Place: East End Alameda and Bay Farm Island, California.

NAME OF BIRD	When Was It First Seen?	About How Many Were Seen?	When Was It Next Seen?	When Did It Become Common?	When Was It Last Seen?
Western willet	Feb. 16	1	Mar. 30	Apr. 4	May 9
Black bellied plover	Mar. 6	6	Mar. 30	.....	Apr. 27
Marbled godwit	Apr. 15	25	Apr. 16	Apr. 18	May 9
Western sandpiper	Mar. 4	50	Mar. 6	Mar. 30	May 9
Red backed sandpiper	Feb. 16	12	Mar. 4	Apr. 3	May 9
Long billed dowitcher	Mar. 30	24	Apr. 3	Apr. 4	May 9
Snowy plover	Apr. 4	4	.....	.....	.....
Hudsonian curlew	Mar. 30	6	Mar. 31	Apr. 3	May 16
Semi-palmated plover	Apr. 24	3	Apr. 27	.....	Apr. 28
Sanderlings	Mar. 6	12	Mar. 30	.....	Apr. 28
Knot	Apr. 24	10	Apr. 25	.....	Apr. 27

Black bellied plovers, snowy plovers, semi-palmated plovers and sanderlings did not become common this spring. Two snowy plover nests were found at Baumberg 4/16/27.

While at Santa Barbara April 11th to 14th, this spring, I made observations twice a day along the shore and on one occasion along the beach near Ventura. The only species encountered were sanderlings, snowy plovers, Hudsonian curlews, wandering tatlers (only two birds), black bellied plovers and long billed curlews. The two last mentioned species were found on the beach after leaving Santa Barbara. The sanderlings and Hudsonian curlew were very numerous. It seemed strange to find no sandpipers on the southern beach when upon my return to Alameda there were tens of thousands of those birds feeding everywhere.

I asked Dr. Louis B. Bishop, Pasadena, about the absence of sandpipers and he stated that they did not frequent the southern beaches and that the birds I had observed were the species to be expected there. Willets and godwits evidently are also rare in that locality.

* * *

MAY FIELD TRIP was taken May 15th to Cashion, Contra Costa County, following the usual route along the highway past the ranch house, then turning off onto the cañon road through the grain field for a short distance, leaving the road and cutting across the field to a wooded trail which follows along the banks of Las Trampas Creek and comes out onto the road which was followed up the cañon. The day was clear and calm, with intense heat, so only about half of the usual territory was covered. Luncheon was eaten in a small grove on the bank of the creek.

In spite of the heat, the birds were out in good numbers and were extremely active all day. When the party left the train they were greeted with such a medley of bird songs that it was quite bewildering for a minute or two to try and separate out the different songs. Each association of oak, willow and shrubbery seemed to have its full quota of inhabitants. In fact,

sixteen species were observed in the eucalypti along the roadside in a distance of not more than two hundred and fifty yards. Western lark sparrows were observed carrying nest material into an apple tree not far from the road. Cliff swallows were again observed nesting under the eaves of a barn.

Proceeding up the cañon where there is an association of oak and willow, also many kinds of shrubbery, as well as now and then a dead tree for the woodpeckers, the party was continually entertained by black-headed grosbeaks, western warbling vireos, western house wrens and many more less persistent singers. The dead trees were not without their inhabitants, for in one was a hole occupied by a Nuttall ladder-backed woodpecker family and in another a willow downy woodpecker family seemed to be at home.

Great expectations were had of seeing a golden eagle again this year and still greater ones in finding a long-tailed yellow-breasted chat, but neither was in evidence.

In the following list, Dr. Grinnell's and Miss Wythe's classification and nomenclature is used, as published by the Cooper Ornithological Club, Pacific Coast Avifauna, Number 18, and called "Directory to the Bird-Life of the San Francisco Bay Region".

Birds encountered were: Northern, western and California gulls, Farallon double-crested cormorant, observed on the bay by the San Francisco contingent. At Cashion—Interior California quail, western mourning dove, northern turkey vulture, western red-tailed hawk; willow downy and Nuttall ladder-backed woodpeckers, Monterey red-shafted flicker; Allen hummingbird, black phoebe, common western wood pewee, yellow-bellied western flycatcher; southern coast Steller and northwestern California jays, California red-winged blackbird, western meadow lark, Bullock oriole, California Brewer blackbird; California purple finch and linnet, willow American and green-backed Arkansas goldfinches, western lark, western chipping and song sparrows; San Francisco spotted and brown towhees, Pacific black-headed grosbeak, lazuli bunting; western tanager, northern cliff swallow; western warbling and Cassin solitary vireos; lutescent orange-crowned, California yellow and golden pileolated warblers; Vigor's Bewick and western house wrens; California plain titmouse, Pacific coast bush-tit, intermediate wren-tit; Pacific russet-backed thrush, western Mexican bluebird. Forty-five species.

Members in attendance were: The Misses Boegle, Burroughs, Cockefair, Cohen, Ethel and Martha Crum, Haefner, Sterne; Mesdames Futhey, Kibbe, Mexia, Myer; Dr. Card, Messrs. Bryant, Myer, Smith. As guests: The Misses Belvel, Geary, Mott; Mrs. Stephens; Dr. Cook, Messrs. William and Sterling Gorrill, Stephens and Scouts Felix and Harold Juda. Sixteen members and ten guests.

C. A. BRYANT.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

President	Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn	Phelan Bldg., San Francisco
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Carl Smith	563 Forty-second Ave., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary	C. B. Lastreto	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer	Chas. Bryant	Room 1011, 65 Market St., San Francisco

Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. G. Earle Kelly, 1311 Grand St., Alameda.

Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35c per year. Membership dues, payable January 1, $3.00 per year.